Civil Aviation Authority Finance and Corporate Services Information Management



7 September 2009 FOIA reference: F0000874

Dear Control

I am writing in respect of your recent application of 8 August 2009, for the release of information held by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Your request:

For each of the most recent five years for which information is available please disclose what percentage of flights were already established on the 27L ILS:

- (i) before the Manor Road Roundabout;
- (ii) before Richmond Circus Roundabout;
- (iii) before Twickenham Bridge.

In assessing your request in line with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are able to provide the information below.

Data on every flight arriving at Heathrow airport are stored in the CAA's Noise and Track Keeping (NTK) system. For this analysis, aircraft were considered to be established on the ILS localiser when they were within a beam angle of 1.25 degrees either side of the centerline (Half Scale Deflection or "one dot" deviation on the aircraft's instruments according to EHJ Pallett's book on "Aircraft Instruments"). This equates to a lateral tolerance of approximately 300m on either side of the centreline near the locations identified in the FOI request.

Because of the volume of information involved, no more than one month of data can be queried at a time for each location, therefore, the original request covering three locations over five years would have amounted to a total of 180 separate queries. The time taken to complete each query is approximately one hour including data checking, therefore, to extract and provide the data from 180 separate queries would take the CAA 180 hours. In accordance with section 12 of the FOI Act, Public Authorities may charge for information, at a charge of £25 per hour, where the time taken to extract the information exceeds 18 hours. Therefore, the total cost to provide all the information requested would be £4,500.

We have applied section 12 of the FOI Act to your request (a copy of which can be found enclosed). We have, however, provided monthly data for the most recent complete month going back over five years. Therefore, data has been provided for the month of July in each of the five years 2005 to 2009 inclusive.

Civil Aviation Authority

Aviation House GW Gatwick Airport South Crawley West Sussex England RH6 0YR WWW.GRE.SOUR Telephone 01293 768612 rick.chaffield@caa.co.uk



On that basis, **Table 1** shows the percentage of flights recorded in the CAA's NTK system that were established on the 27L ILS before reaching (i) Manor Circus Roundabout, (ii) Richmond Circus Roundabout, and (iii) Twickenham Bridge.

Table 1: Percentage of flights established of the 27L ILS at the following locations

Period	Total 27L arrivals	Percentage of flights established on the ILS by:		
		Manor Circus	Richmond Circus	Twickenham Bridge
July 2005	7507	99.71%	99.80%	99.85%
July 2006	5849	99.59%	99.66%	99.68%
July 2007	9212	99.72%	99.72%	99.74%
July 2008	9445	99.85%	99.87%	99.88%
July 2009	9434	99.96%	99.97%	99.98%

Note the figures in Table 1 are presented to a precision of two decimal places to avoid reporting 100% of flights established in July 2009, but this should not be taken to indicate the data are accurate to 0.01%.

If you are unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach the Freedom of Information Case Manager in writing at:-

Rick Chatfield
FOIA & EIR Case Manager
Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House
Gatwick Airport South
West Sussex
RH6 0YR
rick.chatfield@caa.co.uk

The CAA has a formal internal review process for dealing with appeals or complaints in connection with Freedom of Information requests. The key steps in this process are set in the attachment.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner at:-

Information Commissioner's Office FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF www.ico.gov.uk/complaints.aspx Should you wish to make further Freedom of Information requests, please use the e-form at http://www.caa.co.uk/foi.

Yours sincerely

Rick Chatfield

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FolA & EIR Case Manager

CAA INTERNAL REVIEW & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- The original case to which the appeal or complaint relates is identified and the case file is made available:
- The appeal or complaint is allocated to an Appeal Manager, the appeal is acknowledged and the details of the Appeal Manager are provided to the applicant;
- The Appeal Manager reviews the case to understand the nature of the appeal or complaint, reviews the actions and decisions taken in connection with the original case and takes account of any new information that may have been received. This will typically require contact with those persons involved in the original case and consultation with the CAA Legal Department;
- The Appeal Manager concludes the review and, after consultation with those involved with the case, and with the CAA Legal Department, agrees on the course of action to be taken;
- The Appeal Manager prepares the necessary response and collates any information to be provided to the applicant;
- The response and any necessary information is sent to the applicant, together with information about further rights of appeal to the Information Commissioners Office, including full contact details.

Freedom of Information Act : Section 12

Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (3) In subsections (1) and (2) "the appropriate limit" means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority-
 - (a) by one person, or
 - (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,

the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

(5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.